The Field Museum

Natural News

Weekly Staff Newsletter
August 13, 1999

Exhibit developers speak at Visitor Studies Conference

They make me feel like I'm part of the world. Because when I look at them, I keep my eyes on them and I think what they mean.

8-year-old boy talking about the objects in his room
(Clipped from Peter Stevenson's e-mail signature)

Exhibit developers **Anamari Golf** and **Peter Stevenson** delivered papers at this year's Visitor Studies Conference, held at the McCormick Place Hyatt.

The conference has grown substantially in recent years and now boasts a wide range of contributors including architects, space planners, designers, psychologists, sociologists, exhibit developers, market researchers, and visitor studies professionals all working to understand how the public interacts and learns within a museum context.

Anamari presented a paper titled "Informal Science Education and Family Medicine: Can Patient Research Inform Visitor Studies?" The paper explored ways family medicine can offer a frawework for a community-oriented model of visitor research.

Peter gave a talk entitled "Spaces, Places, and the Status of Objects: A Model for Meaning in the Museum," in which he reviewed his ideas about how people build meaning through their interactions with environments and objects, both at home and in the public space of the museum.

Peter and Anamari's talks will be scheduled for the staff in the near future.

Submitted by **Rich Faron**

FIELD NOTES

Week of August 16

Public Events/Special Events

Downtown Thursday Nights
(Museum open until 8 p.m.)
- Thursday

Millennium Mosaic Project
- Friday and Saturday

Staff/Volunteer Events

Tae Bo Class
- Monday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor East

Aerobics Class
- Tuesday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor East
- Thursday, 5 p.m., Classroom A

Tuesday Noon Seminar Series
- Zoology Classroom

Running Club
- Wednesday 5 p.m.
  Meets at West Door

Softball
- Wednesday after work
  Call John Petreikis at ext. 7340
  for details/directions

ATTENTION MOVIE BUFFS!!

Call or stop by the Human Resources office for discounted movie tickets for Loews/Cineplex Odeon/ Sony Theatres for only $5. *(Check your newspaper to make sure discounted tickets may be used for your movie.)*

TRAVELS FAR AND WIDE

Feet don't fail me now . . .

The Field Museum "millipede group"—Petra Sierwald (Zoology), Marius van der Merwe (graduate student, UIC) and Robin Carlson (graduate student, U of C)—attended the 11th International Congress of Myriapodology in Poland in the middle of July. About 70 participants from 28 countries came together to present talks and posters. We were impressed by the devotion of the myriapodologists (those who study millipedes, centipedes, symphylans, and pauropods)—many came without supportive funding and some used their vacation time to attend the meeting.

Research on myriapods has long been neglected nationally and internationally, and many "amateurs" have contributed greatly to the field. But the lack of support was evident in the low number of students attending the congress. We discussed at length with various participants what measures can be taken to change the situation and to involve more students into the various groups of myriapods.

The PEET funding Petra received in 1998 is aimed at providing funds to develop some modern tools to facilitate systematic research (e.g., taxonomic catalogs), but also to introduce modern analytical methods and to train new students in the field. Our discussions with the few internationally renowned millipede experts were very helpful to our efforts and several collaborative projects are now underway. One of the millipede researchers, Sergei Golovatch from Russia, will visit The Field Museum in January 2000.

Petra and Marius also took the opportunity to visit several European museum collections (Frankfurt, Hamburg, Amsterdam, and Tervuren). Most of these collections are not curated by a millipede specialist and are not currently growing through research at the home institution. However, these collections are rich in older type material, indicating a much higher interest in millipedes in the past.

Submitted by Petra Sierwald

Brinkmeier on loan to Bolivia for a month

The Harris Loan Center's Dan Brinkmeier just returned after spending a month doing some hard traveling and feeding the mosquitos in The Department of the Beni in eastern Bolivia.

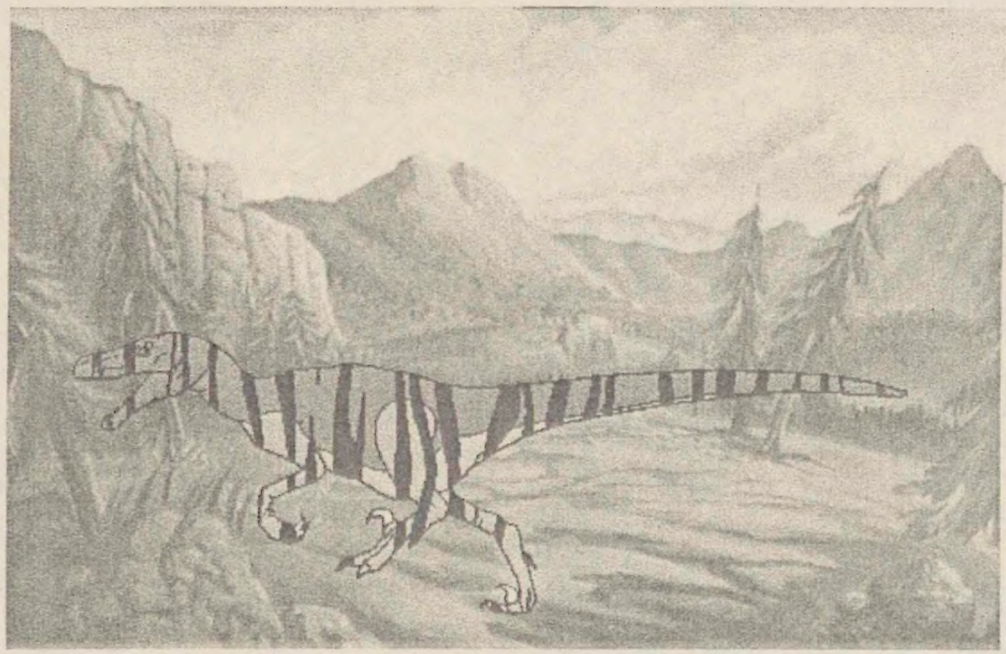
While there, Dan presented a talk entitled "Alternative Media and Community Education" at the Fourth Annual Session on the Archaeology of Prehispanic Cultures of the Wetlands, held on July 16 in Trinidad, Bolivia. He also helped to plan and develop educational materials that would support a University of Pennsylvania archaeology and landscape mapping project that will take place in Bolivia next year.

In La Paz, Dan spent several days at the Natural History Museum, visiting with Nuria Bernal and Soraya Barrera, both of whom had worked at The Field Museum in the past (they say hi to all their friends here). He also talked with national museum educators about the development of educational programming that could help them reach other areas of Bolivia.

Dear Salvatore,

11th July 1999

we hope you remember us - We come from Italy and we met you last month at the Field Museum - You were very kind with us and we thank you. - Michele enjoied very much and he was very interesting about you - He wants to send you a photo about him so you can remember weee - If you have some news about SUE or about some fossie, please write us - We'll be very happy



Thank you for everythinks

Anne, Beppe and

MICHELE

POSTA PRIORITARIA
Priority Mail

SALVATORE INGRAFFIA
5621 N. ORIOLE AVE.
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60631
U.S.A.

FUN PHONE FACTS

Do you know how to . . . .

Review your "Bulletin Broadcasts"

Most message review functions and all playback controls are available during review of "Bulletin Broadcasts"

During review:

- To skip bulletin (press #)
- To skip all bulletins (press # #)

After reviewing each bulletin:

- To save (press 9)
- To listen to next bulletin without responding to the current one (press #)

At the end of bulletin session:

- To erase all bulletins (press 7)
- To skip all bulletins (press #)

If your mailbox is full, you may receive a Bulletin Broadcast, but you will not be able to save it until you free space by deleting unneeded messages.

FUN PHONE FACTS

Do you know how to . . . .

Future delivery reminders

Send yourself a copy of a message requesting follow-up by a specific date, marking the message with future delivery. After entering your own mailbox number as the destination, press 4 for future delivery and then enter the day, date, and time as prompted.

Verbal memos

Use your personal-group distribution lists to distribute verbal memos. To create a group list, press 4 for personal options, then 2 for administrative options, 2 for "Group Lists" and 1 to create a list. The quick keystrokes are 4-2-2-1. Once the list is created, all you need to enter is the 2 digit list number to send a message to your personal group list.

One topic per message

To make it easier for a recipient to respond to your messages, limit your message to a single topic. Your recipient can then react appropriately to each topic.

Attention All Museum Staff And Volunteers

On Saturday, August 28, due to the visit of the Dalai Lama, you must enter the building before 9:00 a.m. or after 11:30 a.m., and only through the shipping entrance. Staff and volunteers who have purchased tickets for the event may enter through the south door. **All Departments must submit a complete list of their staff and volunteers who will be working in the Museum to Security by Monday, August 23rd**. Only staff and volunteers who are on the list and who present their I.D. will be admitted.

For Security reasons, the north staff elevator will not be available until after 11:30 a.m. The north elevator will not stop on the ground floor until after 3:30 p.m.

Please Note: There will be no parking in the west lot until after 4:00 p.m. on August 28. All staff and volunteers should park in the Soldier Field east lot.

The Results are In!

Congratulations to the all the staff who made it out to the Chase Corporate Challenge last Thursday evening. This year's race had over 600 companies and 16,500 runners/walkers participating. The Museum had over 110 runners/walkers enter the race from all areas of the Museum. A special thanks to **Wendell Davis**, Security, **Jeanette Watson**, Housekeeping, and **Rodger Patience**, Development Services who volunteered to staff the Museum's tent the day of the race and made everything run smoothly. Also thanks goes out to staff in Housekeeping, Maintenance and Special Events for their help in coordinating an off-site event. Unofficial results of the race have been posted. This year our Men's team came in 107 out of 255 teams and our Women's team came in 119 out of 191 teams. Congratulations to all who made this year's race a success!

Top Finishers for the Museum

Men

Mark Westneat	Zoology	21:25
John Eimers	Museum Stores	23:34
Terry Becker	Volunteer	26:10
Lance Kirsch	Exhibits	26:14
Richard Blob	Zoology	26:49

Women

Dana Brink	Finance	24:55
Linda Hills	Volunteer	25:51
Kristie Webber	Education	29:36
Becky Margolin	Exhibits	30:00
Erin Archer	Intern	31:31

Departments with 10 plus staff participants

Visitor Services	15 staff
Museum Stores	12 staff
Education	11 staff
Housekeeping	11 staff
Exhibits	10 staff

Submitted by Tracey Pilch, Human Resources

Parting is such sweet sorrow

Dear Friends:

This brief note is hopelessly inadequate to express my deep and heartfelt gratitude for all your help, support and friendship over the last 17 years. The Field Museum has given me opportunities I could never have imagined and has been a wonderful place to build a career. I'll miss Chicago and this great building—but most of all I'll miss all of you.

I look forward to keeping in touch and being back in Chicago whenever the opportunity presents itself. Thank you for a truly memorable farewell party on July 29th. On behalf of my family and myself thank you for all your kindness—and for everything you have done to make this the best Museum in the world. It has been a privilege to work with you.

Peter R. Crane

RECENT ADDITIONS

Megan Sweeney joined The Field Museum on Monday as the Auxiliary Boards assistant. Megan is a recent graduate of Millikin University in Decatur with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications. Megan has great public relations and marketing experience, most recently working at the Kirkland Fine Arts Center in Decatur. We are thrilled to have Megan as our newest addition to the Development office. Megan can be reached at extension 7136—please stop by the Auxiliary Boards/Women's Board office and welcome her to The Field Museum.

Submitted by Stephanie Powell

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Making the AIDS Quilt panel for Steve McCarroll

The panel with Steve in the foreground and Washakie Basin in the background is here. It cost Andrew Leman a bit more than expected—$300. I am herewith asking for donations. Please make checks out to me; Ill see that all the money goes to Andrew.

Please join us the evening of Wednesday, August 18 to cut, sew and embroider. Bring needle, thread, scissors if you have them. Also acceptable according to the Names Project Foundation are textile paint, colorfast dye, indelible ink, stencil, collage. Not acceptable: glue, puffy paint. George Wolnak has donated fabric that can be used for backing.

We'll work in the "lunch room" near the Exhibits department design loft, near Kent Peaslee's office (he'll be there, too). Call ext. 7627 or email me, or just show up.

Submitted by Elaine Zeiger

Aerobics to be held in alternate locations

Since the museum is open for the remaining few Thursday nights (aerobics night), classes will be held as follows:

August 19	Classroom A
August 26	Lecture Hall 2

Change in Group Sales phone numbers

Please change your Departmental Staff Directory for the Group Sales Department in the following manner:

665-7300	Group Sales Department
665-7601	Group Sales Fax (shared with Special Events)
665-7302	Polutnik, Rachel
665-7303	Sanders, Laurie

Submitted by **Laurie Sanders**

FAN MAIL

Kudos to Encarnacion Teruel

Dear Mr. McCarter:

On July 20 and 21, the Illinois Arts Council grant review panel met at the James R. Thompson Center to review the Arts-in-Education Roster applications.

Encarnacion Teruel [Education], one of the panelists, contributed greatly to the process. Encarnacion was well prepared, made pertinent comments, and was very professional.

As a result of this meeting, the highest caliber artists will be working in Illinois schools and communities.

I was extremely pleased with Encarnacion's contribution to the process. Thank you for making him available for the panel.

Rhoda Pierce, Executive Director
Illinois Arts Council

'The pinnacle of volunteer pleasure'

Dear Mr. [Peter] Stevenson:

Thank you for the copy of the video "Two Wheels and a Twisting Highway: The Culture of Motorcycling" from the **Art of the Motorcycle** exhibit.

Along with the catalogue, it will become my fondest keepsake from my Field Museum experience. Hopefully, my children and their friends will grow tired of my part in the video and their laughter will subside before the tape wears out!

Of all my life's volunteer service, The Field Museum may occupy the pinnacle of pleasure.

With great memories and stories,
Fran Kokes